



Missouri Commission for the
Deaf and Hard of Hearing
1103 Rear Southwest Blvd
Jefferson City, MO 65109

(573) 526-5205 (VTTY)

(573) 526-5209 (FAX)

E-mail: MCDHH@mcdhh.state.mo.us

[Http://www.mcdhh.state.mo.us](http://www.mcdhh.state.mo.us)

From Pumpkins To Pigs At Silver Dollar City

The dark cloudy skies threatened rain in the morning but the clouds blew away, and the afternoon was sunny and bright for the MCDHH Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day held at Silver Dollar City (SDC) near Branson on September 13th. The park was beautifully decorated in a collage of fall colors with thousands of pumpkins strategically placed throughout. There was something for everyone to enjoy, including bluegrass music for grandpa and grandma, arts and crafts for mom and dad, and rides for the kids. Mix in a jumping mule, pig races, and the flashing hands of interpreters and you have the ingredients of a super enjoyable day in the Ozarks for people with hearing loss. MCDHH staff members Kandice Allee, Amy Fowler, Ameir Smith, and Dr. Roy Miller greeted a great many guests and answered many questions throughout the day. MCDHH was joined at this year's event by other exhibitors, including the Missouri Association of the Deaf (MoAD), the L.E.A.D. Institute (Leadership Through Education and Advocacy for the Deaf), and Sources (an Independent Living Center in Fayetteville, Arkansas).



Highlights inside this issue:

"Skill Level Standards" Now Mandatory	2
MCDHH Convenes Relay Interpreter Task Force	2
Darryl Douglas Appointed To Commission	3
2003 Legislative Summary	3
New "Interpreters' Manual"	4
2003 Empowerment Symposium	4
MCDHH Law Enforcement Trainings	5
Anniversary Bags For Sale	5
Sharon Neumann Solow Opens Conference	6
CAPTEL in Missouri Lisa Geier Appointed to Commission	6
2004 Interpreters Conference	7
MCDHH NEWS	8
MCDHH Working With Educational Interpreters	8
Dr. Barbara Garrison Closes Conference	9
2003 Award Recipients	10

MCDHH Responds To Needs Of Public School Districts

In response to requests from several public school district administrators, MCDHH filed an emergency rule in August creating a new certification in the Missouri Interpreters Certification System (MICS), namely, Provisional Restricted Certification in Education (PRCED). Under this rule, a public school district can nominate a person to be given a PRCED if the person is currently certified in the MICS at either the Novice or Apprentice level, and the public school district is unable to find an educational interpreter who otherwise meets the requirements of the Skill Level Standards rule. The PRCED is good for only one year, and may be extended one more year if, and only if, the holder takes the MICS performance test during the year that they have a PRCED and moves up to a higher level of certification. The PRCED is good for interpreting only in elementary and secondary schools in the district that nominates the interpreter, and an interpreter can get a PRCED only once during their entire lifetime.

"Skill Level Standards" For Interpreters Are Now Mandatory

On January 30, 1997, the original administrative rules implementing the Missouri Interpreters Certification and Licensure law became effective. Those rules included a "Requisite Skill Levels" rule that outlined in detail the level of certification that was appropriate for providing interpreting services in many different settings. However, back then it was fully understood by the Board for Certification of Interpreters that many interpreters would need some time to enhance their skills sufficiently in order to provide effective services in the most demanding settings. So, the "Requisite Skill Levels" rule was not scheduled to become effective until July 1, 2003. Hopefully, six years would be enough time for all interpreters to develop their skills to whatever level they desired.

In 2002 the "Requisite Skill Levels" rule was renamed the "Skill Level Standards" rule, but the date when it was to become effective was kept at July 1, 2003. This year the State Committee of Interpreters (licensure) amended their Ethical Rules of Conduct to include a section [4 CSR 232-3010(3)], that says "an interpreter shall not interpret in a setting beyond his or her certification level" as provided for in the "Skill Level Standards" rule of MCDHH. This new section of the Ethical Rules of Conduct became effective on May 30, 2003.

So, a complaint may now be filed with the State Committee of Interpreters against any interpreter who interprets in settings for which they are not qualified, as specified in the "Skill Level Standards" rule of the Missouri Interpreters Certification System. Anyone who wants or needs one or more copies of the "Skill Level Standards" rule should feel free to contact the MICS Coordinator, Ms. Amy Fowler <afowler@mcdhh.state.mo.us> at the MCDHH office, or they can download the "Skill Level Standards" rule from the MCDHH website <www.mcdhh.state.mo.us>.

MCDHH Participates In Workshop For Educational Interpreters

Kandice Allee, Kim Davis and Amy Fowler of the MCDHH staff participated in a special three-day intensive workshop for educational interpreters that was held in Rolla on July 16-18. That workshop was co-sponsored by MCDHH and Interpreter Training Associates of Springfield, Missouri. Kandice and Kim co-presented "Fingerspelling"; Kim presented the "Educational Interpreters Toolbox"; Kandice presented "Sign to Voice Interpreting", and Amy and Kandice co-presented "The Missouri Interpreters Certification System and Testing Tips".



**Judith Barker, Amy Fowler
and Kandice Allee**

The three days were very busy with the workshop generally focusing on the appropriate role of the educational interpreter, the IEP process, the laws and administrative rules governing certification and licensure of Missouri interpreters, and skill development exercises (both expressive and receptive).

MCDHH Convenes A Relay Interpreter Task Force

In response to requests from several deaf Missourians, MCDHH convened a task force earlier this year to discuss the need for a "relay interpreter" certification in Missouri. A "relay interpreter" is also sometimes referred to as a certified deaf interpreter (CDI) or an intermediary interpreter, and is a person who teams with another interpreter to ensure effective interpretation services for "language deficient" deaf persons. The task force recommended that MCDHH proceed to develop a training and testing procedure that would enable native users of American Sign Language, both hearing and deaf, to become certified in the Missouri Interpreters Certification System as relay interpreters. That recommendation is now being thoroughly reviewed by the Board for Certification of Interpreters (BCI). MCDHH looks forward to the future challenges of implementing the recommendation of the task force if it is accepted by the BCI.

Summary Of MCDHH 2003 Legislative Activities

The 2003 legislative session was a very busy but rather unproductive one for MCDHH. During the session we initiated and/or testified in support of the following major legislative initiatives:

- (1) Enact a law to require that American Sign Language be treated the same as any "foreign language" in all educational institutions in Missouri for both credit granting and receiving purposes, as well as for meeting admission and graduation requirements.
- (2) Amend the law [494.425(5), RSMo] that disqualifies a person from sitting on a petit or grand jury if they are "unable to read, speak and understand the English language" so as to allow persons with disabilities, including deaf persons who can't "speak", to serve on such juries with the use of auxiliary aids and services.
- (3) Enact a law to mandate hearing aid coverage for dependent children up to age 19 by all insurance companies and HMO's doing business in Missouri.

Unfortunately all of these initiatives died at different stages of the legislative process, with our jury duty bill dying on the last day of the session. Hopefully we will have greater success in the legislature next year.

Darryl Douglas Appointed To Commission

The Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is pleased to announce the recent appointment of Mr. Darryl Douglas to the Commission. Mr. Douglas is a teacher and co-director of the Success Center at Hickman High School in Columbia, Missouri. Mr. Douglas received his bachelor's degree in Music Education from Baker University in Baldwin City, Kansas in 1984, and has done graduate work at the University of Northern Colorado and the University of Missouri Columbia (most recently to become certified in teaching children with learning disabilities). Mr. Douglas has worked as a professional educator for two decades, including holding the positions of Director of Bands at Lincoln College Preparatory Academy in Kansas City, Academic Teacher with the Missouri Department of Youth Services, and Sophomore Dean at Rock Bridge High School in Columbia. In addition, Mr. Douglas served as a Supervisor in the office of Instructional Improvement and Resources, a Supervisor in the office of Federal Program Assistance, and Director of the office of Equity and Urban Education, all within the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Mr. Douglas replaces Helen Bayer on the Commission as the representative of local public school administration. We welcome Mr. Douglas to the Commission and look forward to working with him to enhance the quality of life of Missourians who are deaf and hard of hearing.

MCDHH Participates In MoAD Conference

MCDHH staff provided two workshops at the 38th Biennial Conference of the Missouri Association of the Deaf, which was held in Independence, Missouri on August 7-10, 2003. Kim Davis presented an informational workshop focused on the history, function and services of MCDHH on Friday morning entitled "MCDHH: When, Where, Who, What, Why and How." And Kim, Dr. Roy Miller, and Marco Tapia (the Executive Director of the Missouri Deputy Sheriffs' Association) presented a workshop on Friday afternoon entitled "Officer, I Can't Hear You." That workshop focused on improving the ability of deaf and hard of hearing people to successfully interact with law enforcement officers. Contact Kim Davis <kjdavis@mcdhh.state.mo.us> at the MCDHH office if you would like to schedule this training.



Kandice Allee and Marco Tapia

2003 Empowerment Symposium Expanded To A Full Day

The program for the 2003 "Empowerment Symposium" was expanded to an all-day event, and focused on "Employment and People who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing." This year's Symposium was held on Saturday, October 18, and ran from 9:30 in the morning to 5:00 in the afternoon, with a break for lunch. This year's Symposium was again held at Tan-Tar-A Resort Golf Club and Spa at Lake of the Ozarks in Osage Beach, Missouri.

The 2003 MCDHH Empowerment Symposium featured a variety of speakers, including Karen Anderson and Ellie Bono from the Missouri Commission on Human Rights, Rob Honan, the executive director of the Missouri Governor's Council on Disability, Larry Warren from the Kansas City office of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and Dr. Barbara Garrison, the superintendent of the Missouri School for the Deaf. They described the mission, structure and goals of their agencies, discussed the various laws affecting the employment of people with hearing loss, detailed the procedures for filing complaints related to employment discrimination with their agencies, discussed the need for and effectiveness of mentorship programs, and outlined changes that were taking place at MSD to better prepare its students for employment after graduation.

Two of our special guests at this year's Symposium were Dr. Douglas Watson (Director) and Dr. Steven Boone (Director of Research) from the University of Arkansas Rehabilitation Research and Training Center for People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. They presented a two-hour program entitled "Surviving and Thriving At Work" where they focused on two areas: succeeding in job interviews and succeeding in negotiations for job accommodations. Symposium attendees were introduced to two resource materials that have been designed for these areas. **GET IT: An Interview Training Resource for Job Applicants with Hearing Loss** is a video-based curriculum that focuses on the skills needed by deaf, hard of hearing and late deafened persons to succeed in job interviews. **Accommodate! A Multimedia Resource for Communication Accommodations at Work** is a CD-ROM based resource that targets job related accommodations for persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or late deafened.

About seventy-five people attended this year's Empowerment Symposium, and attendees had an opportunity to win one of several door prizes. As always, the Empowerment Symposium was free to everyone, and both sign language interpreters and real-time captioning (CART) were provided. If you have any ideas about a focus or topic for next year's Empowerment Symposium, please contact the MCDHH office <MCDHH@mcdhh.state.mo.us>.

New "Interpreters' Manual" Available

MCDHH is very pleased to announce that a new manual describing the Missouri Interpreters Certification System (MICS) is now available for distribution at our office. This new **Interpreters' Manual** presents the history of the system, includes the law and administrative rules that govern the system, and describes many policies and procedures that compose the system. The manual also includes the law and administrative rules that govern the licensure of interpreters in Missouri. This manual has been completely revised and one or more copies can be obtained by contacting Amy Fowler <afowler@mcdhh.state.mo.us> at the MCDHH office.

MoAD Award To MCDHH

MCDHH received an "Outstanding Deaf Community Service Award" at the recent 38th Biennial Conference of the Missouri Association of the Deaf (MoAD) for its efforts in hosting deaf and hard of hearing awareness events all around the state. It is with heartfelt appreciation that the staff of MCDHH wishes to thank MoAD for this honor. Promoting deaf and hard of hearing awareness at places like Six Flags St. Louis and Silver Dollar City not only provides enjoyment for Missourians with hearing loss, but also enables us to demonstrate their special communication needs to thousands of hearing people. We look forward to continuing to expand our awareness events to other venues in Missouri.

**** Deaf And Hard Of Hearing Awareness Day at Six Flags Set For June 19, 2004 ****

MCDHH Contributes To Family Fun And Learning Retreat

In June, two members of the MCDHH staff participated in the 2003 Family Fun and Learning Retreat (FFLR). That retreat is a three-day event for parents who have a deaf or hard of hearing child, and is coordinated by Project Outreach at the Resource Center on Deafness, which is housed at the Missouri School for the Deaf (MSD). Workshops, classes and activities were provided for the parents concerning various aspects of deafness and raising a child with hearing loss. The deaf and hard of hearing children and their siblings also had programs and activities designed especially for them.

Kim Davis, the MCDHH Workshop/Training Specialist, provided a presentation about various assistive technologies commonly used by children with hearing loss at home, in school and for personal use. Donald Benfield, former MCDHH Information/Media Specialist, participated on a panel along with other deaf and hard of hearing adults discussing their personal and educational backgrounds. More information about FFLR can be found at <http://rcd.msd.k12.mo.us/fflr.htm>.

Shift To MCDHH e-News

In order to cut costs, in the near future MCDHH will be shifting to electronic distribution of the **MCDHH News** to everyone that has e-mail access. If you can receive our newsletter via email, please notify the MCDHH office <MCDHH@mcdhh.state.mo.us> of your email address.

MCDHH Law Enforcement Trainings Are Well Received

During the past year MCDHH has been collaborating with the Missouri Deputy Sheriffs' Association (MDSA) in hosting a series of day-long training workshops for law enforcement officers. The series is entitled "Officer, I Can't Hear You!" and it features presentations by Kim Davis, Kandice Allee and Dr. Roy Miller of the MCDHH staff, as well as Marco Tapia, Executive Director of the MDSA. To date, workshops have been held in Columbia (2/13), Bloomfield (2/26), Kansas City (6/6) and Jefferson City (6/12), and future workshops are planned for St. Louis and Springfield. This series has been well received, and if you would like for your local sheriff's department to receive this training have them contact the MCDHH office <MCDHH@mcdhh.state.mo.us>.



Kim Davis and Marco Tapia presenting at Maple Woods Community College in Kansas City, Missouri

Anniversary Bags For Sale

MCDHH has a few beautiful bags left from the 10th annual Missouri Statewide Interpreters Conference. The conference bags were sponsored by Deaf-Interlink, and we will sell them for \$10.00 each. Please contact Mary Sheridan <msherida@mcdhh.state.mo.us> at the MCDHH office if you want one of these gorgeous bags.

Donald, We'll Miss You!!!

Due to a significant cut in the amount of Personal Service moneys appropriated by the Missouri Legislature to MCDHH for the current fiscal year, it was with great sadness that we had to reduce the size of our staff. Regretfully, Donald Benfield, the former Information/Media Specialist at MCDHH, was released from the staff effective on July 1st. We want to thank Donald for the enthusiasm, diligence and competence that he demonstrated while he was with us at MCDHH, and we want to wish him the best in his future endeavors.

Sharon Neumann Solow Opened Interpreters Conference

The keynote speaker at the 2003 Missouri Statewide Interpreters Conference was Sharon Neumann Solow. Sharon works as an interpreter, interpreter coordinator, performer, lecturer and consultant. Her career has taken her around the United States, and to Canada, Mexico, Europe, Scandinavia, New Zealand and Australia. She is the author of two books, Sign Language Interpreting: A Basic Resource Book (newly revised!) and Say It With Sign along with a number of professional articles and handbooks. Her television appearances include talk shows, variety shows and documentaries, and she co-stars with her husband, Larry Solow, on the Emmy award-nominated NBC Knowledge series "Say It With Sign", which still airs throughout the United States. As the female lead in "The Electric Sign Company", she and Gary Sanderson have delighted audiences for over three decades. She has been involved in the education of spoken language interpreters and interpreter educators through the Monterey Institute of International Studies. Sharon is an active member of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) and the Conference of Interpreter Trainers (CIT). She holds a CSC and Specialist Certificate: Legal from RID. In addition, Sharon is the 1987 recipient of the national Virginia Hughes Award for outstanding contributions to the field of sign language interpreting.



Sharon delighted attendees at the conference by asking members of the audience to think of all the ways that interpreters were like diamonds. This approach fit perfectly with the theme of this year's conference ("The Diamond Decade"), and provided many true, sad and humorous comparisons. Her warmth and personableness engulfed the audience, and her zest for her profession was apparent. Her keynote presentation was the perfect start to an outstanding conference.

CAPTEL Should Continue In Missouri

Missouri is one of the states that has been participating in the CAPTEL field trials. The CAPTEL service is a relay service where the relay operator uses Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR) software instead of typing in order to present the text of the hearing person's conversation. The CAPTEL phone was developed by UltraTec, and allows the deaf or hard of hearing user with some useful residual hearing to both listen to the conversation of the hearing person and read the text of that conversation at the same time. The CAPTEL phone has received an overwhelmingly favorable response during the field trials, but whether or not the CAPTEL relay service will continue to be available in Missouri after the trial ends next spring is an issue presently before the Missouri Public Service Commission (PSC). Please contact the PSC (1-800-392-4211) and let them know that you feel that CAPTEL relay service should definitely be continued in Missouri. Our hard of hearing citizens need that service.

MCDHH Presents At The Teen Institute

Kim Davis, MCDHH Workshop/Training Specialist, and Donald Benfield, former MCDHH Information/Media Specialist, provided presentations at the 2003 Teen Institute at Camp Jo-Ota in Clarence, Missouri in June. The Teen Institute is a week-long training program for teens with hearing loss from Missouri and surrounding states. Teen Institute is coordinated by the staff of the L.E.A.D. Institute (Leadership through Education and Advocacy for the Deaf). The purpose of this intensive training program is to teach deaf and hard of hearing teens a variety of strategies and skills for solving conflicts and becoming team players and leaders, as well as to provide information concerning drug, alcohol and HIV/AIDS prevention. Additional presentations were given by professionals from a variety of fields, such as education, psychology, counseling, and social work, as well as from other state agencies. More information about the Teen Institute may be found at <www.deaflead.org>.

Lisa Geier Appointed To Commission

The Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Lisa Geier to the Commission. Dr. Geier is an audiologist, and is currently the Director of the Cochlear Implant Program at Regional Ear, Nose and Throat in Springfield, Missouri. She earned her bachelor's degree in Speech Pathology and Audiology from the University of Kansas in Lawrence in 1984, and later received her M.A. degree (1990) and Ph.D. degree (2000) in Audiology from the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City. Dr. Geier held a Fellowship with the American Academy of Audiology in 2003. Dr. Geier brings to the Commission a tremendous wealth of knowledge and experience, especially concerning cochlear implants and auditory brainstem implants. In the past Dr. Geier has worked for Advanced Bionics Corporation in California (manufacturers of the Clarion cochlear implant), as well as the Midwest Ear Institute/St. Luke's Hospital, Impact Hearing Conservation, Inc. and Timber Hearing and Speech Centers, Inc., all in Kansas City. Dr. Geier has numerous publications in such scholarly journals as the American Journal of Otology, the ENT Journal, and the Annals of Otology, Rhinology & Laryngology. Dr. Geier was appointed to the Commission to replace Brad Stach as a representative of a profession serving deaf and hard of hearing people. The staff of MCDHH welcomes Dr. Geier to the Commission and looks forward to working with her to improve the lives and opportunities of Missouri citizens with hearing loss.

MCDHH Exhibits At Deaf Worldwide Expo

MCDHH had an exhibit booth at the Deaf Worldwide Expo that was held in Overland Park, Kansas on May 17th. The event provided MCDHH staff members Kandice Allee and Kim Davis with an opportunity to answer many questions from Kansas interpreters regarding the Missouri Interpreters Certification System, and to explain the services of MCDHH to many persons with hearing loss.



**Kim Davis and Art Wiesblatt,
CEO Deaf Worldwide**

"Occasional" MCDHH NEWS

Due to the tight budget situation, in the future the paper version of the **MCDHH NEWS** will be printed and distributed only on an occasional basis, namely, as fiscal resources permit. Thus, we will try to keep people informed about the activities of MCDHH on a more timely basis by announcements on **MCDHH-L** and posting information on our website.

Mark Your Calendars Now For 2004 Interpreters Conference

In order to avoid a conflict with the National Convention of the Conference of Interpreter Trainers, the 2004 Missouri Statewide Interpreters Conference will be held on the last weekend in October, rather than the traditional third weekend. We hope everyone will mark their calendars now for October 29-31, 2004 and plan to join us for the 11th annual Missouri Statewide Interpreters Conference.

New MICS Brochures Available For Distribution

In the last issue of the **MCDHH NEWS** we announced the availability of our new tri-fold brochure that describes MCDHH and its services. We are now very pleased to announce that we have recently completed revision of the tri-fold brochure describing the Missouri Interpreters Certification System (MICS). The revisions in the new brochure were necessitated by the many major changes in the MICS rules that became effective last spring. If you would like to receive one or more copies of the new brochure please contact either Amy Fowler <afowler@mcdhh.state.mo.us> or Ameir Smith <asmith1@mcdhh.state.mo.us> at the MCDHH office.

MCDHH Working To Assist Educational Interpreters

MCDHH is collaborating with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in an effort to ensure that all educational interpreters are appropriately certified and licensed. As a part of that process, MCDHH developed an additional certification option for educational interpreters when the MICS rules were revised last year. Since last March, educational interpreters have had the option to take the Educational Interpreters Performance Assessment (EIPA) and have their EIPA scores converted to MICS certifications. While this additional certification option has been favorably received by many interpreters, it was underutilized at first because of the need to travel to Omaha, Nebraska, in order to take the EIPA. We are pleased to announce that making that long trip is no longer necessary. MCDHH has become a remote test site for the EIPA, and on April 22, 2003 the first EIPA performance tests were administered at our office in Jefferson City. EIPA testing dates are now regularly scheduled on a monthly basis. For more information about the EIPA contact Amy Fowler, the MICS Coordinator <afowler@mcdhh.state.mo>.

In addition to becoming an EIPA test site, MCDHH changed its policy regarding the Restricted Certification in Education (RCED). Formerly, an interpreter had to indicate prior to taking the MICS performance test that they were testing for the RCED in order to be eligible to receive that certification. Now, an interpreter will be awarded an RCED if they have earned it, and they do not have to make a prior declaration of their desires. This change eliminates a source of confusion among some interpreters and eliminates the possibility that a person could earn an RCED but not receive it simply because they did not announce ahead of time their desires.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day At Six Flags A Big Success

On June 14, MCDHH hosted the 2003 "Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day" at Six Flags St. Louis. This year's fun-in-the-sun frolic was a special event, and very successful with over 750 coupons being sold for a reduced admission price. This was the 10th year in a row that the Commission and Six Flags St. Louis have cooperated to make this event possible, and it was highlighted by free commemorative balloons being passed out to children throughout the park by MCDHH staff members Kandice Allee, Donald Benfield, Kim Davis, and Mary Sheridan. We want to thank Relay Missouri for their financial support of our Six Flags event, and to everyone who joined us to help celebrate this anniversary.



Katie Sullivan, Florissant Valley Community College Student Interpreting for "Kachunga!" At Six Flags

Farewell To Commissioner Stach

Commissioner Brad Stach recently resigned from MCDHH. Brad was appointed to the Commission in January, 2001 as the representative from one of the professions associated with hearing loss. At that time he was the Director of Audiology and Clinical Services at the Central Institute for the Deaf (CID) and a professor of audiology in the Department of Speech and Hearing at Washington University. Brad has left Missouri and accepted the position of Director of Audiology at Henry Ford Health System in Detroit, Michigan. With deep appreciation for Brad's gentleness, friendliness, support and many past contributions to the Commission, the staff at MCDHH bids him a "Fond Farewell" and wishes him much success in his new position.

Dr. Barbara Garrison Concludes "The Diamond Decade"

The 10th annual Missouri Statewide Interpreters Conference was held on October 17-19 at Tan-Tar-A Resort Golf Club and Spa at Lake of the Ozarks in Osage Beach, Missouri. The theme of this anniversary conference was "The Diamond Decade," and from all reports the conference was truly a gem.

There was a record number of exhibitors at the conference, and there were a greater number of display tables in the exhibit hall than ever before. Luxurious cloth conference bags were donated this year by Deaf Interlink, and they were full of "stuffers," including a copy of the newly revised "hot off the press" **Interpreters' Manual**. There were more advertisers and sponsors for this year's conference than ever before in history, and for the first time a variety of door prizes were given to lucky attendees, including a real .25 carat diamond donated by Bichsel Jewelry in Sedalia. There was a plethora of productive workshops to choose from, and the feature speakers were truly outstanding. Sharon Neumann Solow started the conference off by comparing interpreters to diamonds, and Mid-Missouri's own Dr. Barbara Garrison concluded "The Diamond Decade" with a sparkling presentation full of humorous anecdotes about interpreters, their characteristics, and their profession.



Dr. Garrison, a North Carolina native and SODA (Sibling of a Deaf Adult), is Superintendent of the Missouri School for the Deaf (MSD). She has a thirty-year career history in deafness as a vocational rehabilitation evaluator and counselor, interpreter, interpreter trainer, interpreter coordinator, teacher, consultant, business manager, ASL performer and administrator, in addition to her lifetime of experiences with the Deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind communities. She has served as President of the South Carolina Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, on the Organizational Board of the Conference of Interpreter Trainers, and as chairperson of the Ethical Practices System for the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf. She was a former recipient of the "Interpreter of the Year" award from the South Carolina Association of the Deaf, the "Business Woman of the Year" award from the Professional & Business Women's Club and was listed in "Who's Who of American Women." She holds a Comprehensive Skills Certificate from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID), Master's Level 5 from the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) and Comprehensive Certification from the Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Board for Certification of Interpreters. With personal and professional involvement in both deafness and interpreting for over a quarter of a century, Dr. Garrison was the perfect endnote speaker for our conference.

All in all, it was a great conference and one that will long be remembered. "The Diamond Decade" is over, and MCDHH looks forward to the next ten years of facilitating and hosting this great regional interpreters conference.

Call Kim If You Need A Workshop

MCDHH provides presentations and workshops on a variety of topics related to hearing loss, including the mission of MCDHH, the nature of hearing loss, sensitivity training, assistive technology, Deaf culture, empowerment of persons with hearing loss, legislative advocacy, American Sign Language, and the legal rights of individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. So, if you need a workshop in your area, please contact Kim Davis, the MCDHH Workshop/Training Specialist by sending e-mail to <kjdavis@mcdhh.state.mo.us>.

Let's Get 1,000 On-Line Voices To Speak To The Legislature

MCDHH-L is a listserv for the timely distribution of MCDHH announcements and action alerts. And during a legislative session, when things sometimes happen fast and furious, about the only way to keep up with the activities in the legislature that might affect persons with hearing loss is to subscribe to **MCDHH-L**. You can do that by simply sending an e-mail to <MCDHH@mcdhh.state.mo.us> giving your full name and asking to be added to **MCDHH-L**. Let's prepare for the 2004 legislative session by getting 1,000 on-line voices to speak out for the needs of Missourians with hearing loss.

Awards! Awards! And More Awards!

The annual MCDHH Awards Ceremony was held on Saturday, October 18 at Tan-Tar-A Resort Golf Club and Spa at Lake of the Ozarks. The Awards Ceremony is an opportunity for MCDHH to honor several people who have made outstanding contributions to the MCDHH mission during the past year or have significantly contributed to enhancing the lives of people who are deaf and hard of hearing over many years. The 2003 MCDHH award recipients were as follows:

Employee of the Year – Ms. Kimberly J. Davis, MCDHH Workshop/Training Specialist (Jefferson City)
Deaf Evaluator of the Year – Mr. Scott Reed (Platte City)
Hearing Evaluator of the Year – Ms. Audrey J. Partney (St. Charles)
Angel Award – Six Flags St. Louis
Angel Award – Missouri Deputy Sheriffs' Association
Lifetime Achievement Award – Ms. Denise B. Rogers (St. Louis)
Lifetime Achievement Award – Rev. Arthur R. Steidemann (St. Louis)
Lifetime Achievement Award – Mr. Lawrence O. Yates (Buckner)

In addition, "In Appreciation" plaques were presented to two people who had recently left the Board for Certification of Interpreters (BCI), namely Mr. Pat O. Adams and Ms. Ula Williams. Both Pat and Ula had served on the BCI since its inception, and Ula had provided steadfast leadership as chair of the BCI since its beginning.

Our deepest **CONGRATULATIONS** go out to all the 2003 MCDHH award recipients.



1103 Rear Southwest Boulevard
Jefferson City, Missouri 65109

Staff

Dr. Roy E. Miller
Executive Director
ExecDir@mcdhh.state.mo.us

Mary Sheridan
Executive Secretary
msherida@mcdhh.state.mo.us

Kandice Allee
Executive Assistant /Staff Interpreter
kallee@mcdhh.state.mo.us

Amy Fowler
MICS Coordinator
afowler@mcdhh.state.mo.us

Kim Davis
Workshop/Training Specialist
kjdavis@mcdhh.state.mo.us

Ameir Smith
Senior Secretary
asmith1@mcdhh.state.mo.us

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